

TAFT APPEALS TO CONGRESSMEN

Asks Them to Lay Aside Individual Opinion That Promises May be Fulfilled.

WHY HE'S A BAD POLITICIAN

Gives Summary of Things That Have Caused Some of His Advisers to So Characterize Him.

Boston, N. Y., March 18.—President Taft tonight, in a speech before the chamber of commerce, appealed to members of Congress to sacrifice their individual opinions that the platform promises of the Republican party might be fulfilled, and hoped the party would show that it has "the sense and the discipline to meet its responsibilities."

The impression had got abroad that the president might have something to say tonight on the acute situation in the house of representatives at Washington, but this was his nearest reference to the subject. At one point of his speech which was devoted entirely to the legislative program he had recommended in the last few months, the president further declared:

"The Congress is to be treated as a Republican Congress these things ought to pass in fulfillment of party pledges. After this is done, it does not matter what happens at the next election. We will have done something for which the country will be grateful, whether it thinks it ought to express this gratitude in the immediate future or not."

Mr. Taft constantly was interrupted by applause, and when, toward the end of his remarks, he declared with great emphasis he had tried as president to do what he believed was right, rather than those things that would bring political strength, the audience of nearly 1,000 business men stood up and cheered for several minutes.

The president spoke with great earnestness throughout. He declared he had been told he was no politician and that things had been predicted. He believed, however, in the end the people would find the measures recommended to Congress were right and that right after all was the very best of politics.

Mr. Taft's greeting tonight was the most demonstrative he has received in his recent travels. He was followed as a speaker at the banquet by President W. C. Brown of the New York Central railroad, who paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Taft and to the progress and stability that had come to the business world since his inauguration.

President Taft summed up the things he declared had caused some of his advisers to characterize him as a bad politician.

First, he said, there was the tariff law, and a new tariff bill always defied a party.

Second, had come the corporation tax, bringing with it the enmity of every body directly or indirectly interested in the more than 400,000 corporations affected.

Third, there was the "alleged" postal deficit, which had been charged to the carrying of magazines and periodicals at 1 cent a pound. That was "bad politics because it arrayed all the magazines and periodicals against the administration."

Fourth, Congress only reduced the duty on print paper 30 per cent. Instead of putting it on the free list. This offended the newspapers.

And, last of all, the postal savings bank bill had turned all the bankers against the administration.

"So," he continued, "my friends don't see just where we are coming out. But I am confident in the end the measures will approve themselves. The troubles we most fear are those that never come. The measures we promised ought to be adopted, not because they will give us political strength, but because they are right. And if they are right, the people will find them to be right, and that is the best politics in the end."

BILLS HE WANTS ENACTED.
The president referred to the measures he hoped Congress would adopt at this session in the following order:

"The bill amending the interstate commerce law.

"The bill for postal savings banks.

"The anti-injunction bill.

"The standard bill.

"The conservation bills."

After he had explained briefly the provisions of these measures, the president continued:

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president, and I assure you there are a great many of them, is, he is the true head of the party and is made responsible for the laws adopted by the party, although he has had nothing more to do with them than a recommendation at the beginning and the power of veto at the end. He is held responsible for the promises made by the party.

"And if, in his enthusiasm and desire to fulfill the party pledges—and to help the country, as he thinks—he goes about and consults all the interests, so as to recommend a fair law, and makes suggestions to Congress and some congressmen differ with him, he is held up as a tyrant trying to force his views down the throats of unwilling congressmen and unwilling senators."

"And so he is in a bad fix. On the one hand it is said of him he is not doing what he ought to do, and on the other hand he is trying to frighten an unwilling Congress to do what it does not want to do. But this is a government of party. If it were not a government of party we might as well go out of the government business, for we will never get ahead without parties. How are you going to give expression to the varying views of ninety millions of people and put them into the form of legislation, to be agreed upon by a majority of your representatives and senators, unless you organize parties to select those representatives and senators and agree within the party to subordinate your less material predilections and opinions in favor of certain fundamental principles of improvement. In order to advance which you are willing to sacrifice all less important matters?"

"Therefore, you have to have what is known on the football field as team work. And the party has to get together—the aims on one side and the extremes on the other—and both must sacrifice something of their individual views and get the thing through, and that is what I am hopeful our Congress will do."

"That they may differ on details of the various bills is to be expected. But if they are really in favor—all of them of enacting useful legislation, then they must be willing to sacrifice some of their views that there shall be a compromise measure of real improvement and a real step forward to show the people the party which has assumed responsibility has the sense and discipline to meet it by subordination of smaller views."

THE PAST YEAR.
"It is not more than a year since the present administration began. We had promised to revise the tariff and we did so. The operation of that law during the seven months it has been in existence is vindicating the pledge we made for it. A comparison with the preceding year shows the law to be a good revenue producer, shows

a reduced percentage in rates of duty and an increased percentage of articles on the free list.

"Business has increased and prosperity is here. Conditions are all that could be hoped. According to the measure of the business man. How long this condition will last, how much it will be affected by the construction to be put on the anti-trust law, will not be known until we have the decision and learn what real effect the decision will have."

"We have been trying to cut down expenses at Washington. The estimates for the next fiscal year are \$28,000,000 less than the appropriations for the current year. The treasury has been down \$10,000,000, but saved enough to continue the policy of two battleships a year until the completion of the Panama canal. That was one of the longest policies of my predecessor, and the one I thought perhaps the most of—and I would have felt the keenest regret to have departed from it in the first year of my administration."

"I would like now to direct your attention to the legislation which I hope to get at this session of Congress. First, and most important are the amendments to the interstate commerce act."

The president then went into detailed explanations of the bill which he said he felt was not generally understood. He explained the necessity of a commerce court to hear appeals from the interstate commerce commission. First of all it would expedite matters, he asserted.

DELAYS OF JUSTICE.
"The one thing," said the president, "which disgraces our civilization today is the delays of criminal and civil justice. These delays always work in favor of the man with the deepest purse. Hence they work in favor of the railroads rather than the shipper. The commerce court by avoiding delays of the past, will be a long step toward that regulation of railroads which we have been looking for."

A second provision of the bill allows carriers to make traffic agreements among themselves subject to approval of the interstate commerce commission. My predecessor, in his every message to Congress, recommended this. The provision does not permit pooling. It allows that which the railroads have to do anyway whether they will or no. It is a long step toward the regulation of railroads which we have been looking for."

Other provisions of the pending bill were taken up one by one. The president explained the necessity of giving the commission power to readjust classification of freight, to suspend increased rates until time is allowed for a proper investigation as to their justice, to supervise the issue of stocks and bonds and to prevent watering, to fix through routes and to give shippers a choice of routes. Lastly he came to that provision which has been the subject of recent attack in the house of representatives to permit railroads already owning 51 per cent of the stock in another road to purchase the remaining shares.

"Some gentlemen seem to think that this gives the railroads too much leeway," said the president.

"As a matter of fact, it was inserted to give the minority stockholders a market. If a railroad already owns 51 per cent of the stock it is in control. The house committee has stricken out this provision but my impression is that after full consideration, it will be found advisable to give this opportunity to the minority stockholders to market their holdings and the people least interested in the provisions are the railroad companies."

From the railroad bill the president passed to the postal savings bank measure, which already has passed the senate. He said he hoped it would pass the house and he felt the enactment of the bill would prove the worth of the institution.

In the end he predicted that instead of hurting the banking business, it would improve it.

ANTI INJUNCTION BILL.
Next the president discussed the so-called anti-injunction bill. "That, too," he said, "presents some aspects that would be discouraging to a person less optimistic than I. Our friends Gompers and the American Federation of Labor are opposed to the bill because they do not think it goes far enough. Our friend Van Cleave and the Manufacturers' association are opposed to it, because they say it will ham-string the courts and prevent them from giving needed relief. The truth of the matter is the bill is one of reasonable provisions and it carries out the platform to the letter. Some people ask why we should bother to pass the bill if it does not satisfy the labor organizations. We did not agree to adopt this law because we believed it to be right."

"I am tired," fairly shouted the president amid a storm of cheers, "of consulting particular interests, to see whether or not a thing ought to go through. I am in favor of consulting every interest to see what its argument may be and want to give justice to every interest. I want to know if a thing is right. If it is right, we can convince the people it is right and they will be with us."

In speaking of the conservation measures, the president said he hoped Congress at this session would at least adopt the bill that gives the president specific authority to withdraw

lands from public entry until such time as Congress can adopt laws for their proper disposition. After this bill is passed, the president said, he hoped the \$20,000,000 of bonds or certificates would be granted to carry forward the reclamation projects in the west. This work, he said, had gotten ahead of the money in hand through an effort to satisfy the hopes of those to be benefited by the reclamation lands.

WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS.
The president referred to the right of the executive arbitrarily to withdraw lands from entry, a subject that has formed a part of the testimony taken in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

"Originally," he said, "the Constitution provided the public domain should be disposed of by Congress, but there grew up a practice when the government needed a military reservation or a lighthouse site under which the president would reserve the necessary land. Proceeding upon the theory that rights of the 1,400 holders established, millions of acres of lands were withdrawn by the last and the present administration that Congress might deal with the lands in other

ways than the present laws prescribed. "The right of the executive is a very doubtful one to my mind, and if tested might not stand. Already a test is being made of the right to withdraw lands in California. The law that ought to pass first is the one giving the president definite authority to withdraw lands. There is some opposition to this among some gentlemen who live in the west and breathe the air of freedom who think that land ought to be disposed of under existing laws and as rapidly as possible. They say they will stand up and object to the law as long as there is leather under their feet. But this talk is not to be taken too seriously."

The president discussed the various problems of practical conservation, the question of the proposed lease of coal lands, power sites, etc. Experimental laws would have to be passed, he thought, to be strengthened if found too lenient or made less drastic if found to shut out capital. Mr. Taft told some of President Eliot of Harvard, who after accepting the leadership in a conservation movement came to the White House one day and said:

"Mr. President, I have been looking into this conservation business and I find there are some problems in it that have not been solved and are so intricate it is going to take a lot of time and thought to solve them."

"I quite agreed with him," declared the president.

ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S NOMINATION

Chicago, March 18.—Preparations for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the nomination of President Abraham Lincoln, are being made by representative business men in Chicago and a meeting will be held at the Union League club Monday for the selection of officers and committees to arrange the celebration.

It is the intention to reproduce the convention held in Chicago, May 16-18, 1860, in a "reign" similar to that in which the memorable convention was held.

BURGLAR TAKES NAP IN HIS VICTIM'S BED

New York, March 18.—The police of the suburban town of Northport, L. I., have called upon the New York police to assist them in the search for a burglar who has been robbing the homes of wealthy residents there. His latest victim was James F. Bendersnagel, owner-cashier of the American Sugar Refining company, who figured prominently in the recent sugar fraud trials. Several hundred dollars' worth of silverware and linen were taken from the Bendersnagel home. The burglar is a cool one. Before removing his booty from the Bendersnagel residence, he took a nap in Bendersnagel's bed. None of the family were at home at the time.

PASTEURIZATION OF MILK IN CHICAGO ABANDONED

Chicago, March 18.—The health committee of the city council yesterday decided by a vote of 6 to 1 to abandon the pasteurization of milk in Chicago which was only recently adopted. The matter of repeating the ordinance will come before the council next Monday.

Alderman J. A. Hey's argument for repeal is that 1,250 of the 1,400 holders in the city will be put out of business by the cost of installing pasteurization machinery.

"Under pasteurization of milk, the

people of Chicago will pay over \$14,000,000 for milk annually more than before," he said. "The dealers left will combine and raise the price."

"Chicago uses about 1,000,000 quarts of milk a day. The milk trust would raise the price 4 cents a quart and hence the people of Chicago would pay \$14,000,000 more a year than they do now."

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